

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/826,483

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Applicant(s)

MASSENDALE ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 28 June 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 10-23, 25-31 and 33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 4/4/2001 and 3/8/2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CAO (KEVIN) YEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. The request for continued examination (RCE) and amendments submitted with the filing of the RCE on 28 June 2004 have been received and entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. It is noted that the applicant has canceled claims 9, 24 and 32 and added new independent claim 33.

3. Claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-31 and 33 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention teaches a graphical user interface for displaying project status information. Each independent claim identifies the distinct feature of "a graphical display workspace having a generally central point and one or more graphical elements contained within the workspace and arrayed around the central point, wherein each graphical element represents a project attribute, and a position of the one or more elements within the workspace relative to the central point is indicative of a relative hierarchy of the project attribute within a series of project attributes in the project, wherein at least one elements comprises at least one icon such that presence of the icon indicates that increased attention is due the project attribute associated with the element, the icon being defined by graphical components different than graphical components that define the associated graphical element". Furthermore, new independent claim 33 identifies the distinct features of a graphical user interface comprising "a radar screen

configured to display one or more wedges, wherein each wedge is associated with a task and wherein the size of the wedge is based on the importance value, and a detail panel editing area configured to allow a user to enter and edit the importance value, the progress value of a task and general task information”, “automatically change the size of a wedge if the importance value of the associated task has been changed”, “display one or more alert icons, if the general task information meets a predefined alert criteria, wherein the alert icons are displayed in the wedge of an associated task”, and “automatically change the position of the alert icon in a wedge, if the general task information has changed relative to the predefined alert criteria”.

The closest prior art, Selker U.S. Patent 6,549,219 and Lungren et al. U.S. Patent 6,549,219 teaches, in combination, a graphical user interface comprising a graphical display workspace having a generally central point and one or more graphical elements contained within the workspace and arrayed around the central point, wherein each graphical element represents a project attribute, and a position of the one or more elements within the workspace relative to the central point is indicative of a relative hierarchy of the project attribute within a series of project attributes in the project. In the case of the Selker reference, Selker teaches a graphical display workspace having a central point and one or more graphical elements contained within the workspace and arrayed around the central point, and a position of the one or more elements within the workspace relative to the central point is indicative of a relative hierarchy. In the case of the Lungren et al. reference, Lungren et al. teach an interface displaying a hierarchy of attributes and graphical elements representing project attributes.

However, the prior art fails to teach that at least one element includes an icon such that presence of the icon indicates increased attention is due the project attribute associated with the

element and that the icon is defined by the graphical components that are different than the graphical components that define the associated graphical elements. Furthermore, with reference to new independent claim 33, the prior art fails to teach a processor that generates a graphical user interface that includes a radar screen having one or more wedges that can be automatically changed in size based on changing project task information and automatically changing position of an alert icon on the radar screen based on other changing information related to the associated task.

Therefore, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (703) 305-0328. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
11 August 2004